



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nearly 1,000 more Wisconsin National Guard troops ordered to active duty

In the largest single-day mobilization of Wisconsin National Guard units in more than 41 years, nearly 1,000 soldiers of the state's Army National Guard were ordered to active duty Saturday, March 1.

Guard officials in Madison announced today [March 2] that the 724th Engineer Battalion, 1158th Transportation Company and 32nd Military Police Company received mobilization orders for active duty service for an initial period of up to one year. The three units, with about 980 members stationed in 12 Wisconsin communities, will enter active duty on March 15. All three units eventually are expected to deploy overseas.

The 724th Engineer Battalion, with approximately 500 soldiers, is headquartered in Hayward, with units in Superior (Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Detachment 1, Company B), Spooner (Company B), Chippewa Falls (Detachment 1, Company A), Medford, (Company A), Tomahawk (Company C), and Rhinelander (Detachment 1, Company C).

The 724th is a combat corps wheeled engineer battalion whose capabilities include demolition, bridging operations, mine clearing, obstacles and main supply route maintenance. The unit was deployed overseas in 1992 for a humanitarian mission in Panama, and again in 2002 to help construct schools and medical clinics in Nicaragua.

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The 1158th Transportation Company has an authorized strength of about 300 soldiers, including 35 members assigned to the company headquarters in Tomah, and about 135 soldiers in each of two detachments in Beloit and Black River Falls. The transportation company operates a fleet of 96 Heavy Equipment Transporters (HETs), whose mission is to transport a variety of heavy tracked combat vehicles weighing up to 70 tons.

The 1158th Transportation Company, then stationed in Monroe, Wis., was mobilized in 1990 for the Persian Gulf War.

The 32nd Military Police Company also was mobilized twelve years ago for Operation DESERT STORM, and the unit completed a nine-month active duty peacekeeping mission in the Balkans last August.

The military police company has about 110 members at its Milwaukee headquarters and approximately 70 soldiers assigned to a detachment in Madison. The 32nd MP company's normal mission is to provide combat support services in area security, law and order, maneuver and mobility support, internment and resettlement of enemy prisoners of war, and police intelligence.

The latest round of mobilization orders will bring the total number of Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard members on active duty to more than 2,200 — which is nearly 23 percent of the Guard's 9,800 soldiers and airmen. Soldiers and airmen from units in 24 Wisconsin communities currently are serving on active duty with the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force.

Previously mobilized units and their status include:

- 64th Rear Operations Center (Monroe), deployed 49 members to Fort Bragg, N.C., on Sept. 11, 2002. Several members are deployed overseas.
- 1157th Transportation Company (Oshkosh), deployed 150 soldiers to Fort Bragg on Sept. 27, 2002. Several members are deployed overseas.
- 332nd Rear Operations Center (Berlin), deployed all 28 members to the U.S. Central Command area of operations Dec. 2, 2002.
- 107th Maintenance Company (Sparta, Viroqua, Sussex), 110 soldiers mobilized Jan. 27 and now serving at Fort McCoy, Wis.

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- 832nd Medical Company, 44 Wisconsin soldiers (along with 16 from the unit's detachment in the Delaware Army National Guard) entered active duty Jan. 28 and are now serving at Fort Lewis, Wash.

- 147th Aviation Battalion (Madison), about 210 soldiers entered active duty Feb. 2 and will eventually deploy overseas.

- Task Force Red Arrow (made up of 32nd Infantry Brigade soldiers statewide), 106 soldiers augmenting security forces at three military airfields in Wisconsin.

- 229th Engineer Company (Prairie du Chien and Platteville), 166 soldiers entered active duty Feb. 7, presently at their mobilization station at Fort McCoy. Expected to deploy overseas.

- 106th Engineer Detachment (Ashland), about 55 soldiers entered active duty Feb. 10. Presently on active duty at home station armory. Date for movement to mobilization station not yet determined.

- 829th Engineer Detachment (Richland Center), about 55 soldiers entered active duty Feb. 10. Presently on active duty at home station armory. Date for movement to mobilization station not yet determined.

- 1st Battalion, 426th Regiment (Fort McCoy), three soldiers on active duty since Feb. 25 supporting the U.S. Army Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Okla.

- 115th Fighter Wing (Madison), about 175 members on active duty (most serving at Truax Field in Madison, about 30 deployed overseas).

- 128th Air Refueling Wing (Milwaukee), about 80 members on active duty (most serving at Mitchell Field in Milwaukee, two are currently deployed overseas).

- 128th Air Control Squadron (Volk Field), two members on active duty in the Continental United States.

The number of Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard troops currently serving on active duty now exceeds the number mobilized for the Gulf War, when 1,400 members of eight Army Guard units and one Air Guard major command were ordered to active duty.

Yesterday's call-up of nearly 1,000 Guard soldiers from Wisconsin was the state's biggest single-day mobilization since Oct. 15, 1961, when the Wisconsin Army National Guard's entire 32nd Infantry Division was mobilized by President Kennedy for the Berlin Crisis.

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